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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Steve Neal was the political columnist at the Chicago Sun-Times from 1987 until his passing in 2004; and

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WHEREAS, His journalism was credited with influencing elections, spurring the City of Chicago to change from a partisan to a non-partisan system in mayoral elections, and gathering support for the Illinois State Library being renamed the Gwendolyn Brooks Illinois State Library; and

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WHEREAS, He was a three-time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize in Commentary; he was the author, co-editor, and co-author of eleven books, ranging from a biography of Wendell Wilkie to a book about the correspondence between Harry Truman and Eleanor Roosevelt; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Neal was a graduate of the University of Oregon and the Columbia University School of Journalism; he was inducted into the School of Journalism and Communications Hall of Achievement at the University of Oregon in 2003; and

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WHEREAS, Steve Neal will be remembered most for a series of articles in his column that prevented the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield from becoming a political patronage dumping ground; in recognition of his hard work and

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1 efforts, the "Steve Neal Reading Room" has been established in
2 the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library; and

3 WHEREAS, Steve Neal would gather his friends around a table
4 by the fireplace in Gene & Georgetti's restaurant in Chicago to
5 trade political news and insights; on March 23, 2007 the
6 fireplace was dedicated to the memory of Steve Neal; therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
9 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
10 celebrate the life and career of Steve Neal; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
12 presented to the family of Steve Neal as a symbol of our
13 respect.